



4th AND 5th YEAR OPTIONS AND CHOICES

2019-2021

Important dates concerning the choice of subjects for years 4 and 5

**During the week of
Monday 10/12/2018**

- ❖ Parents and students receive an email with the invitation to the information evening and a link to the options booklet
- ❖ Class teachers distribute the following documents to students:
 - Letter of invitation to the information evening
 - Subject choice form

Thursday 17/01/2019

- ❖ Information evening (Secondary building, 18:00)

Thursday 31/01/2019

- ❖ Deadline to return the subject choice form
- ❖ Deadline to return the language change request form

Friday 07/06/2019

- ❖ Deadline to request more than 35 periods

Friday 28/06/2019

- ❖ Only in exceptional cases, request for changes to the choice of subjects may be considered if submitted **in writing before 28 June 2019**

2019-2021
4th AND 5th YEAR OPTIONS AND CHOICES

Dear parents,

- 1) Next September your son/daughter will enter the 4th year of secondary school. The 4th and 5th years curriculum consists of compulsory subjects and a number of optional subjects. The 4th and 5th years form the Pre-orientation Cycle during which pupils will study the following compulsory subjects:

Compulsory subjects	Periods
Language I (mother tongue)	4
Language II (first foreign language)	3
Language III (second foreign language)	3
History	2
Geography	2
Biology	2
Chemistry	2
Physics	2
Physical Education	2
Religion or Ethics	1
	23
Mathematics	4 or 6
	27 or 29

In addition to the compulsory subjects, pupils must make a selection from the following optional subjects, in such a way that the total number of their weekly periods lies between a **minimum of 31 and a maximum of 35** for those who have chosen **4 period Maths** and a minimum of **33 and maximum of 35 periods** for those who have opted for the **6 period Maths** course.

Optional subjects	Periods
Latin	4 e)
Language IV (third foreign language) or ONL ¹	4 e) k) l)
Economics	4 e) h)
Art	2 i)
Music	2 i)
ICT (Computing)	2 j)

¹ Other National Languages (ONL) choices available in Luxembourg I are:

- Irish is available to pupils of Irish nationality enrolled in the English-speaking section only.
- Finnish is taught to category I and II Finnish pupils in the Swedish section.
- Swedish is taught to Finnish-speakers in the Finnish section.

- 2) In choosing options, parents and pupils are asked to bear in mind the following points:
- a) The curriculum allows a **maximum of 35 periods** to enable some pupils to take two four periods options, for example Latin and Language IV. However, 35 periods should be the exception rather than the rule. All pupils already have 9 examination subjects in the common core of years 4 and 5 and experience has shown the dangers of overburdening them.
 - b) With the exception of ONL, an optional course can only be organised if it is chosen by a sufficient number of candidates, **a minimum of 7 pupils**.
 - c) With the exception of ONL, an optional subject started in the 4th year can be continued in year 6 and 7, only if there are sufficient pupils; a minimum of 5 pupils under the current regulations. For Latin this may be in groups of mixed language.
 - d) **The choice of an optional subject commits a pupil for 2 years: (s)he cannot change, add or drop options as from the start of the 4th year.** However, a pupil can change from Maths 6 to Maths 4 i) at the end of the 1st semester in the 4th year, and ii) at the end of the 4th year, subject to approval by the Class Council. The reverse change is possible, subject to a test.
 - e) As some of the options have to be timetabled concurrently, it will not be possible to provide all combinations, e.g. **timetabling constraints make it impossible for a pupil to choose both Latin and Economics, or both Language 4 and ONL, for example.** In any case it is desirable that the choice of options should help to form a coherent group of subjects for study. Within the limitations of the timetable, the school will try its best to satisfy the greatest possible number of demands made.
 - f) The two Mathematics courses are normally taught separately. Only in exceptional cases could a pupil who had chosen the 4-period course in years 4 and 5 hope to follow the 5 period course in years 6 and 7 (see further below on the appended section).
 - g) In certain language sections, it is considered that the Physics and Chemistry options would only be possible in conjunction with Mathematics 5 periods in years 6 and 7. This point will be fully explained at the 3rd year parents' meeting of each language section.
 - h) The Economics courses will be given in the three working languages (English, French and German); however, a pupil must follow this course in his/her second language (L2).
 - i) The Art and Music courses will normally be given in the language(s) of the teachers available. For some pupils this may therefore be in their mother tongue, for others in one of the working languages (**not necessarily that of the pupil**).
 - j) ICT (Computing) will be taught, if possible, in the pupil's working language (L2). Where this is not possible, it will be in the pupil's mother tongue or third language (L3). There will be a charge of 25€ per pupil per year.
 - k) Any of the official languages of the European Union may be chosen subject to having sufficient pupils to create the course.

- l) ONL (Other National Languages) options run in Irish, Swedish and Finnish. There is no minimum number of pupils for the creation of these courses, which are protected for category I and II pupils of Irish, Swedish and Finnish nationalities. However, when the number of pupils are very small, they can be taught in joined groups of consecutive years. Please be aware that these are not beginners' courses and follow on from the ONL courses in years 1, 2 and 3.

- 3) Brief descriptions of the Mathematics 4 and 6 periods courses and optional courses are appended.

4) **Religion and Ethics courses**

The school will organise Religion and Ethics courses in accordance with the regulation into force, in the best interest of the pupils and of the school organisation. These courses will be delivered in the pupils' L2, unless there are organisational constraints, as very small number of pupils in a group, in which case the pupils L1 or L3 may be used.

5) **Exceeding the limit of 35 periods per week**

At the Board of Governors' meeting held in April 2007 it was decided that, whilst schools should continue organising 4th and 5th year timetables on the basis of a maximum of 35 periods per week, pupils could, with the approval of the Director, exceed this limit provided that the course(s) are compatible with their basic timetables. 35 periods already represents a heavy load, and the school management does not want to encourage pupils to choose more, except in **very exceptional cases**. **A request for such a choice must be made in writing, with a justification, at latest by the 7th June 2019**. The requests will be considered during the summer holiday in the light of the written request, the academic profile of the pupil and timetable possibilities.

6) **Curriculum in S6-7**

It is highly recommended to have a global view of the curriculum leading to the Baccalaureate in order to understand the possibilities and constraints on choices for S6-7 due to the choices for S4-5 made in year 3.

Before making their choices, parents and pupils wishing to inform themselves about the possibilities open to them in the 6th and 7th years can consult the relevant options and choices booklet available on the school website:

[Link to the booklet Options and Choices S6-7](#)

Please note that the choice will be binding for years 4 and 5 and that results in all subjects will be taken into account when considering promotion.

Information concerning Careers Advisors for different nationalities, and useful addresses for further advice or aptitude tests, can be found on the School website:

<http://www.euroschool.lu/>

Mr. Couché coordinates pupil options for years 4 and 5. Please contact him if you have any questions. E-mail: emmanuel.couche@eursc.eu

Martin WEDEL
Headmaster

MATHEMATICS

Compulsory subject

4 period/week (MATHS 4) OR

6 period/week (MATHS 6)

MATHS 4 (BASE LEVEL)

This course is intended for pupils who don't consider continuing with studies where Mathematics plays an important role. Its purpose is to help pupils to understand the scientific and technological world surrounding them without putting too much emphasis on theoretical aspects of Mathematics.

MATHS 6 (STANDARD LEVEL)

This course is intended for pupils who need Mathematics for their higher level studies, and because of this, can benefit from a solid foundation and a good general knowledge of Mathematics.

WHAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN CHOOSING BETWEEN MATHS 4 AND MATHS 6 PERIODS?

a) Pupil's motivation towards Maths

Maths 6 course is much more demanding than Maths 4, and requires a continuous work all along the year. The workload of 6 weekly periods is high, and motivated students will find it easier to overcome the difficulties they may find.

b) Pupil's skills in Maths

Pupils choosing Maths 6 course are supposed to be skilled in Mathematics and with a good knowledge of topics covered in the previous cycle. They should have achieved a good level of autonomy as well as methods to carry out their work in an organized way. The final result in S3, as well as the teacher's advice should play an important role in the choice.

c) Results and feedback of final S3 harmonised long test

At the end of year 3 students do a harmonised test in Mathematics. Feedback will be provided to pupils about their current level, their weaknesses and how they may overcome them, as well as the Mathematics course they should follow in years 4 and 5.

d) Academic choices after secondary education

If strong mathematical skills are required in higher education studies, pupils should choose the Maths 6 course, but only if they are capable to do it.

e) Impact on choices in S6 and S7

The 5 period Maths course in years 6 and 7 can be chosen by pupils who have followed the 4 period course in years 4 and 5 only on the recommendation of the teacher of Mathematics, and on condition that the pupil has been successful in a level test in May. The test includes topics from the Maths 6 curriculum covered during years 4 and 5. The request is examined at the end-of-year Class Council, and the final decision is taken by the Director.

f) Changing from Maths 6 to Maths 4 and vice versa

The change from Maths 6 to Maths 4 is possible in the 4th year i) at the end of the 1st semester, and ii) at the end of the 4th year, subject to approval by the Class Council.

The reverse change from Maths 4 to Maths 6 is possible subject to an achievement test.

g) Work load

The choice of Mathematics course may influence the choice of other subjects. Choosing Maths 6 may have as a consequence that pupils can't apply for other courses they may be interested in, as they can't have more than 35 weekly periods. Furthermore, only pupils with high capacities should have a week-workload of 35 periods. Experience has shown the dangers of overburdening pupils in the final cycle.

For further information on Mathematics provision in years 4 to 7, please consult the syllabus available at the website of the Office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools:

<http://www.eursec.eu>

An example of the topics covered in each of the two levels of Mathematics is shown below for year 4.

TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR THE TWO CHOICES OF MATHS IN YEAR 4

TOPIC	MATHS 4	MATHS 6
Basic calculations in N, Z and Q.	X	X
Towards a new set of numbers: R	X	X
Squared roots and powers.	X	X
Algebraic Expressions. Polynomials	X	X
Linear behaviour and proportionality: 1st degree functions and equations	X	X
Quadratic behaviour: 2nd degree functions and equations		X
Simultaneous linear equations.	X	X
Simultaneous linear inequalities: Optimisation.		X
Collecting, organizing, analysing and comparing data. 1 variable statistics	X	X
Right angles triangles and Pythagoras' Theorem.	X	X
Study of circles.	X	X
Similar triangles and Thales Theorem.	X	X
Enlargements	X	X
Trigonometric ratios in right angled triangles.		X
Applied trigonometry: Solids and right angled triangles.		X
Plane section of solids	X	X
Vectors in the plane.		X

ECONOMICS

Optional Subject 4 period/week

Preconditions for admission

This course can be chosen by all students as a 4th/5th year option.

Those wanting to take economics as an option in the 6th/7th years must have followed the 4th/5th year course. This subject is taught in the working language of the student.

Objectives

- To develop a knowledge of basic economic principles and an understanding of national and international systems.
- To develop analytical skills in the use and interpretation of different materials like texts, statistical data, graphics and pictures.
- To raise awareness of current economic issues.
- To develop the ability to express oneself in a technical language.

Content

- 4th Year* Introduction to the foundations of economic life: nature of economy, consumption, markets, distribution of goods, introduction to money and credit.
- 5th Year* The business sector; introduction to political economy and foreign trade, the basics of accounting.
- 6th Year* Theoretical and practical studies on supply and demand, the economic circuit and an introduction to macro-economic models.
- 7th Year* The possibilities of economic and financial intervention by the national authorities, the influence of the central banks and European institutions on the labour market on monetary value, economic growth and economic conditions, and currency.

Tests/Examinations

Two one period tests in class for the B mark. In addition, written and oral examinations are organised each semester to determine the A mark. Continuous assessment for the A mark.

For further information, the Economics teachers remain at your disposal:

Mr. DAVEY (EN)
Mrs. MARCIANO (FR)
Mr. REINHARDT (DE)

ICT (COMPUTING)

Optional Subject 2 period/week

In years 4 and 5 students go deeper into the topics, which were taught in years 1-3, and will use more advanced features of applications. Also there are some new topics like databases, and computer graphics. They will understand more and more the connections between those applications and how they can learn things by themselves using ICT.

At this stage it is very important to make the students aware of things like data security and copyright, that they can take the right decisions when they use modern technologies in everyday life.

It is not required to take ICT in year 3 in order to pursue ICT in years 4 and 5.

ICT courses are organized in a modular fashion. In years 4 and 5, the following modules shall be covered:

- Spreadsheets
- Word processing
- Introduction to programming
- Databases
- Computer graphics
- ICT and Society
- Web design

MUSIC

Optional Subject 2 period/week

In year 4 and 5, students extend their acquired competence in years S1-3 in a topic-based curriculum based on the three areas of musical competence:

- composing and improvising
- performing
- listening and responding

Over the course of the two years, students will study five topics from the list below. These topics are chosen with the students to match their personal interests as well as keeping a broad approach to musical phenomenon. In addition, there is a final project, which takes place in the final period of year 5. The topic of the project is chosen by the student, based on their personal interests and musical skills.

List of choice for study topics:

- Music for film
- Contemporary musical styles and cultures
- Music for dance
- Music for special occasions
- Musical theatre
- European 'folk' traditions
- Music and voice
- Programme music in the 19th Century
- Composing during the last 100 years

Theory, focused listening and analysis of music from many different places, periods and styles round off this broad and ongoing exploration, and provide a good platform for the Bac option in music, should this be chosen.

LATIN

Optional Subject 4 period/week

Preconditions for admission

- This course can only be taken if the student has taken Latin in the third year.
- Those wanting to take Latin as an option in the 6th and 7th year must have followed the 4th and 5th year course.
- The subject is taught in the language 1, however, when the number of students is insufficient (less than 7) to form a class in language 1, the student may be able to join an English or French class.

Objectives

- To develop a knowledge of the principles of an inflected language. Unlike most modern languages, Latin has the endings of most of its words changed depending on their function in the sentence.
- To develop analytical skills to interpret long and complicated sentences.
- To develop a continuous sense of problem solving by examining the endings and their function in the sentence.
- To raise awareness of Latin as the language of the first great European empire, of the Church and of scientific, philosophical and cultural terminology.
- To bring the student into close contact with the first masterpieces of Western literature.

Content

- Translation of texts from historians such as Caesar and Livy, from poets such as Ovid and Catull and from prose writers such as Cicero and Pliny.
- Study of grammar and vocabulary to be able to translate a Latin text of medium difficulty and to develop a better knowledge of Romance languages by etymology.
- Study the masterpieces of Latin literature and ancient art (architecture, statuary and painting) as well as the later creations they have inspired up to our time (mythology inspires many contemporary artists).

Evaluation

- No compositions but short and long tests per semester.
- End of year 5: *Latinum Europaeum*, which consists of a written exam with an unseen text for all the European Schools at the same time and an oral exam with texts studied during year 5.

The successful candidate receives a certificate of 3 years Latin. The Latinum exam provides a first experience of an oral exam which is also part of the Baccalaureate exams.

A school trip to Italy is organized in S4 or S5: Rome, Pompeii, Herculaneum and Capri in 5/6 days!

LANGUAGE 4

Optional Subject 4 period/week

Preconditions for admission

The L4 courses are open to all students of year 4 because no knowledge of the language is required to start the course. It is however recommended that you like discovering and studying a new language and its culture.

The L4 course can be continued in years 6 and 7 as an optional 4 period course. If L4 has not been taken in years 4 and 5, it is possible to enter the course after having passed a level test.

Studying a 4th Language also contributes to:

- Understanding the culture of the Language studied.
- Emphasise the pupil's cultural identity as European citizens who are open to other cultures.
- Reinforce the spirit of tolerance, cooperation and dialogue between all the members of the school community.

Objectives

The students will learn how to express themselves in current day to day situations such as going shopping, telling the time, presenting themselves, talking about hobbies, the weather and holidays.

They will discover the language not only from a textbook but also by listening to songs, watching a movie, working on the Internet, reading short stories, etc.

If they continue in years 6 and 7, they will discover more about the countries where the L4 language is spoken through press articles and contemporary literature.

Assessment

2 long tests per semester for the B mark.

Small tests, listening exercises, written work and short oral presentations for the A mark.

ART

Optional Subject 2 period/week

Students who would like to pursue Art in years 4 and 5 will be taught in the working language of the student.

The students are expected to show competence and knowledge in the following domains as these will be covered in greater detail:

Art Scientific Basis

- art theory
- art history
- Reception and reflection of artworks

Practical work to include

- Drawing from observation
- Figurative drawing
- Different techniques: drawing: pencil, charcoal, chalk; painting: acrylic, watercolors,
- 3D work: (clay, self-drying clay, paper mache ...)

Year 4 - themes covered in both theoretical and practical areas

- Portraiture
- Atmospheric perspective
- Suggested art movements :
 - Symbolism & Surrealism
 - Cubism & Futurism

Year 5 - themes covered in both theoretical and practical areas

- Volume and plasticity
- Painting and mixed media (to include 3D effects, collage)
- Suggested art movements: Baroque and Rococo, Art Nouveau,
- Arts and Crafts
- Photography and/or Photorealism

For further information please contact the Art teachers, Mrs Arif, Mrs Lajchter, Mrs Louette and Mr Kriaucionis.